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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

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1953 Projects of the Engineering Center  
of VEB Kombinat Otto Grotewohl Boehlen

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1. The Ingenieurtechnische Zentralstelle (IZ) (Engineering Center) of VEB Kombinat Otto Grotewohl in Boehlen has two functions:

- a. To carry out engineering work, chiefly designing and constructing for the Boehlen Kombinat;
- b. To carry out engineering projects for all enterprises belonging to the Main Administration of Liquid Fuels in Production Area for Chemistry in the Ministry for Heavy Industry.

The origin of the IZ goes back to 1939, when it was founded with its tasks limited to the Boehlen enterprise alone. The IZ is now an independent service within the Main Administration of Liquid Fuels. In December 1953, the IZ had a total crew of 184, including 33 persons in administration. The administration of the IZ consists of the following persons:

- 1) Dipl. Ing. Strankmueller (fnu), Acting Director.
- 2) Dipl. Ing. Weigle (fnu), Chief Technologist.
- 3) Ing. Beier (fnu), Chief Constructor.

2. During 1953 the IZ carried out:

- a. 572 repair projects involving 47,598 work hours in all departments of the Boehlen enterprise;
- b. A total of 200 investment projects for 1953, a total of 180 preliminary projects for 1954, and a total of 321 projects for 1954. The latter projects consisted of 121 projects for the Boehlen enterprise and 200 projects for other enterprises of the Main Administration;
- c. A number of engineering research projects.

3. The following table lists the engineering and research projects carried out by the IZ in 1953, with the funds allotted for them:

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25X1

**Page Denied**

SECRET

25X1

- 2 -

<u>Project</u>	<u>Funds, 1953, in DM</u>
a. Two-step distillation procedure	30,000
b. Ammonia washing	3,500
c. Construction of a drier heated with distillation gas	50,000
d. Construction of an indirect pre-refrigerator	40,000
e. Production of city gas from distillation plants	400,000
f. Construction of a revolving gasifier (Drehkorbvergaser)	200,000

In its 1953 report the IZ made the following comments on the above-mentioned projects:

- a. A test generator for two-step gasifying was developed. It is able to produce gas at the rate of 1,500 cubic meters per hour. The generator is a further development of the Winkler generator based on proposals by Wisser and Riedel.
  - b. The project aimed at an investigation of the question whether ammonia additions can be washed out from the hydrogen in high-pressure hydrogenation in view of the fact that these ammonia additions damaged the contact substances. The project was completed, and it was shown that the amounts of ammonia produced during the hydrogenation are so large that their washing out would not be economical.
  - c. The project aims at the pre-drying of raw lignite in a drier heated with distillation gas, whereby the initial humidity of about 55 percent is to be reduced to about 48 or 49 percent. The project has been completed in principle, but it will be extended into 1954 in order to complete the blueprints for an installation on a large technical scale.
  - d. As compared with the use of a direct pre-refrigerator, no particular advantages could be found. The project will be continued in 1954.
  - e. The project aims at production of a distillation gas with a low nitrogen content from Lurgi furnaces which can be used in long distance pipelines or as chemical raw material. It is expected that a pilot installation will be completed in the third quarter of 1954.
  - f. The project aims at the development of a new gasifying procedure for the production of heating gas in revolving grid generators (Drehrost-Generator) with a high grid charge. The project will be continued in 1954.
4. In addition to the above-mentioned projects the IZ in 1953 carried out a number of special projects:
- a. In the summer of 1953 the diesel fuel supply situation in East Germany became precarious, so that the construction of a new cracking installation became necessary. Within three months the IZ completed the project for an installation with a capacity of 180,000 tons of tar per year. Later the project was cancelled. However, the following two possibilities evolving from the IZ project were taken over in the Prospective Plan (1953 to 1960):
    - 1) Use of raw diesel fuel in the de-hydration installation of the Boehlen enterprise.
    - 2) Combination of the hydrogenation process with the cracking process

SECRET

SECRET

- 3 -

25X1

- b. Development of new methods for tar processing which have become known under the designation "Boehlen Combined Hydrogenation-Cracking Process (HC Process)".
- c. Investigations on the exploitation of SO<sub>2</sub> contents in the waste gases of Claus furnaces. The following procedures were investigated:
- 1) Wet catalysis with vanadium contact;
  - 2) Sulfidine procedure with xylidine as a solvent;
  - 3) The ammonium bisulfite process.
- d. Investigations of the possibilities of increasing carboric acid production in East Germany, in view of the fact that carboric acid is used as a basic material in the perlon industry.
- e. Systematic evaluation of the products put out by the lignite coking installation, Matyas Rakosi, Lauchhammer.
- f. A study on the washing out of CO<sub>2</sub> from synthesis gas produced in the Schwarzeide plant. The following procedures were arrived at as the most favorable ones:

<u>Gas amount in cu. meter per hour</u>	<u>CO<sub>2</sub> con- tent in percent</u>	<u>Most favorable procedure</u>
145,000	15.2	Alkazid procedure, without pressure
68,000	38.0	Pressure water washing, 17 to 18 atm.

- g. A study on the conversion of the Didier installation in the Schwarzeide plant into a coking installation for the production of BET<sup>1</sup> locks for metallurgical purposes. The study reached the conclusion that such a conversion is not to be recommended for economic reasons.
- h. A study on the production of gas with rich CO content. This study recommends the "Synthesis-Residue Gas-Cracking Procedure (SRG)" after Riedel.
- i. A project on de-asphalting of crude oil by means of propane was carried out jointly with VEB Mineraloelwerk Luetzkendorf. This project was initiated for the Polish government by the WZ Department (Scientific-Technical Cooperation) of the State Planning Commission.
5. In its 1953 report the IZ assesses the value of its research and development work in 1953 as follows:
- a. Research projects: total value of about 723,500 DME.
  - b. Investment projects: 670 objects with a total investment value of about 140 million DME.
  - c. Studies, prospective planning projects, preliminary planning projects: total value of about 4 billion DME.

Comments:

25X1

1. Possibly Braunkohle Hochtemperatur.
2. Wissenschaftlich-technische Zusammenarbeit.

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